

Message Text

SECRET

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61
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:REWING/AD

APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB

EUR:AAHARTMAN

S/S - PSHANKLE

S - DPASSAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 217200 TOSEC 250045

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: THE AEGEAN (S/S NO. 7618503)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB

1. THE PROBLEM. THE SISMIK SAILED FROM IZMIR THE AFTER-NOON OF SEPTEMBER 1. ITS AREA OF OPERATION AS ANNOUNCED BY THE TURKS INCLUDES ENTRY INTO SIZEABLE CHUNKS OF THE DISPUTED AREA AS WELL AS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS CLEARLY CLOSER TO THE GREEK THAN TURKISH MAINLAND. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS WORRISOME DEVELOPMENT, WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT YOU SEND AN URGENT ORAL MESSAGE THROUGH MACOMBER TO CAGLAYANGIL. IT WOULD BE MY INTENTION TO FOLLOW UP YOUR MESSAGE BY CALLING IN TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESEN-BEL ON THURSDAY MORNING TO underscore THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THIS LATEST AEGEAN DEVELOPMENT.

2. RECOMMENDATION. THAT YOU AUTHORIZE TRANSMISSION OF THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAY-GIL.

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APPROVE DISAPPROVE

3. BEGIN ORAL MESSAGE: I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE SISMIK HAS SAILED ON A COURSE WHICH COULD TAKE IT INTO SOME OF THE MOST SENSITIVE AREAS IN THE AEGEAN AND FOR THE FIRST TIME

INTO WATERS WHICH ARE CLEARLY CLOSER TO THE GREEK THAN TURKISH MAINLAND. A SAILING OF THIS KIND COULD HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WE HOPED HAD BEEN LAUNCHED LAST WEEK THROUGH THE ACTION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND YOUR OWN SUBSEQUENT PERSONAL MEETING WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. INDEED, WE HAD SEEN THESE EVENTS IN NEW YORK AS REPRESENTING A PATH THROUGH WHICH SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN THE AEGEAN COULD EVENTUALLY BE RESOLVED. WE WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THE POINT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN REACHED WHERE QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED, AN OBJECTIVE TO WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS LONG ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. IT IS BECAUSE THE ANNOUNCEMENT YOU MADE TODAY OF THE SISMIK'S CURRENT SAILING PROGRAM COULD HAVE SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE EFFECT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR EARLY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT I WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU COULD REEXAMINE THAT PROGRAM TO INSURE THAT THE SISMIK AVOIDS A COURSE WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE THE SITUATION ON THE EVE OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT A DEMONSTRATION OF RESTRAINT SUCH AS THIS COULD CONTRIBUTE IN A MAJOR WAY TOWARD LESSENING TENSIONS IN THE AEGEAN AND MAKING POSSIBLE THE KIND OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS LONG SOUGHT.

4. DRAFTED:EUR/SE:REWING; CLEARED:EUR:AAHARTMAN

ROBINSON

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NNN

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